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CHRONICLE & TIMES

Weekend Edition, March 23 - 25, 2018

FLOYD COUNTY

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Stapleton: Prestonsburg is 'out of the racing business'

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Prestonsburg City Council took steps to amend its current budget this week, making room for additional revenue and reductions in revenues and expenses

in two tourism attraction categories.

The council held the first reading of an ordinance making changes that add nearly \$1.3 million to the city's revenues and expenses for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which ends June 30. If

finally approved, it would increase general fund revenues from around \$5.4 million to around \$6.7 million, increase general fund expenses from \$5.2 million to \$6.5 million and increase all funds from around \$8.5 million to around \$9.8

million. Mayor Les Stapleton reported the changes were required because the city took out \$900,000 in loans to buy the former Music Carter Hughes property in downtown Prestonsburg and received grant fund-

ing. He said the city's grant and loan funding totaled more than \$1.327 million.

"That's a plus in revenue, but it has to do with some — It's sort of, it's sort of a wash because it

See OUT, Page 8A

Four plead guilty in jail fights

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

Four Floyd County residents pleaded guilty recently to charges of assault and menacing, following two fights that broke out in the Floyd County Detention Center.

Ellis Lewis, 38, of Banner, Tyler Thacker, 25, of Ivel, and Johnny Stewart, 50, of Grethel, were each charged with misdemeanor assault and menacing following a fight that occurred in the jail on March 1. Joshua Emil McDonald, 29, of Martin, also faced the same charges for a March 5 fight in the jail, but his sentence was more severe than the other three.

According to the arrest citations, on March 1, Lewis engaged in a fight with inmate Keith Paige, who was not charged alongside the others. Paige had a small cut under his right eye, which

See PLEAD, Page 7A

Floyd Fiscal Court approves jail roof project

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

The Floyd County Fiscal Court took steps to stop water leaks at the Floyd County Detention Center this week.

During a special meeting on March 20, the fiscal court voted unanimously to allow Judge-Executive Ben Hale to advertise

and accept bids to repair and/or replace the jail's roof.

"It's that time now. We've got money ready for the jail roof repair or replace," he said. He explained the work needs to start as soon as possible, "because they've had quite a few problems with this roof for quite some time."

See PROJECT, Page 8A

Making their voices heard



Photo by Robin Cornetet, Kentucky Today

Prestonsburg Elementary third grade teachers Monica Compton, center wearing black hat, and Melissa Williams, right, were among hundreds of teachers who gathered in Frankfort Wednesday to protest Senate Bill 1, the controversial proposal for dealing with the public employees' pension system. Teachers in Floyd County were given the day off to travel to Frankfort and make their voices heard.

Fannin to change plea in alleged theft of city funds

By AARON K. NELSON
APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

Former Prestonsburg Mayor Jerry Fannin submitted a motion for re-arrestment to U.S. District Court Wednesday.

Fannin faces a federal charge of theft from an agency receiving federal funds, after he allegedly diverted city mon-

ey during his tenure as mayor for the benefit of the East Kentucky Drillers, an arena football team for which he was a part-owner.

Through his counsel, Ned Pillersdorf, Fannin motioned the court for a new arraignment in order to take an Alford plea, which has the same legal

See CHANGE, Page 7A



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Community calendar

- March 23; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.: Edward Jones, located at 255 West Court Street, Prestonsburg, will host an open house for the public. The Floyd County Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting ceremony there at noon. Public invited to all events.
- March 23; 7:30 p.m.: Josh Martin performs with Tyler Booth as opening act, Mountain Arts Center. 888-MAC-ARTS
- March 23-24: Wildlife Women conference, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. (606) 889-1790
- March 24; 7 p.m.: Jenny Wiley State Resort Park to host Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, "The Newly Dead Game." \$35 per guest; \$65 per couple. (606) 889-1790
- March 24: Big Sandy Community & Technical College, to host continuing education courses on plumbing. (606) 230-0354
- March 24; 1 p.m.: Family movie day, Prestonsburg library. (606) 886-2981
- March 26; 10 a.m.: Quilting at the Library, Eastern library. (606) 377-2860
- March 26; 6:30 p.m.: Floyd County Board of Education meets at Prestonsburg Elementary School. (606) 886-2354
- March 26, 5 p.m.: Southern Water meets, Southern offices, McDowell.
- March 26; 6:30 p.m.: Floyd County Board of Education meets, Prestonsburg Elementary

Man arrested after reporting someone locked his wife in a dog box

A FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES STAFF REPORT

A Floyd County man is denying allegations that he violated an emergency protection order, after he called to report that his wife was locked in a dog box.

Jonathan O. Morris, 39, of Allen, pleaded not guilty on March 20 for violating an emergency protection order, public intoxication and first-degree disorderly conduct

— misdemeanor charges that stem from an incident that allegedly occurred the day prior.

According to the arrest citation, Kentucky State Police in Pikeville received a call from Morris on March 19, alleging that his wife was being held against her will and said "subjects had her locked in a dog box."

The responding officer, identified on the citation as D. Marsillett, reported Morris appeared to be under the influence outside of a home on Big Branch of Bull Creek when he arrived to investigate the call.

Marsillett claims that Morris kicked in the door of his wife's residence that morning, and returned to the home several times throughout the day, despite having an

active emergency protection order requiring him not to be near her.

The citation alleges, "KSP Post 9 and other local agencies in the area have had several complaints on the subject at the residence with lug wrenches and other stuff attempting to get in her residence and making threats." It goes on to allege that Morris told the officers that "his wife was going down a dangerous road with him going to jail."

After pleading not guilty to the crimes on Tuesday, Morris' bail was set at \$10,000 cash and he was ordered to stay at least 10,000 feet away from his wife.

Morris has another pending case in which he was charged with public intoxication on March 4.

Reed & Golda

Floyd County Animal Shelter

Volunteer UK law student Reagan Reed is with **Golda** the Golden retriever-Golda is hoping someone will volunteer to give her a forever home.



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HEALTH NEWS @

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PMC Welcomes Maryam Khawari, M.D.



BY AMY CHARLES

Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) proudly announces the addition of Maryam Khawari, M.D., rheumatologist.

Dr. Khawari received her medical degree from Dow Medical College in Karachi, Pakistan. She is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in rheumatology. Dr. Khawari says patients can expect her to be dedicated, giving them long-term care.

"Rheumatology requires long-term care and close follow-up of rare diseases, sometimes requiring complex treatments," Dr. Khawari explained. "I chose this as my specialty because it challenges me to deal with rather uncommon diseases, where each disease is different in different patients. The diagnosis and treatments depend on critical clinical judgment."

Dr. Khawari considers Dr. Larry Ryan, of the Medical College of Milwaukee her most influential mentor. "He was instrumental in inspiring the art of rheumatology," Dr. Khawari said. "I learned, that one cannot be a good rheumatologist without being a great internist." She chose PMC to better serve the needs of the area.

"Rheumatological care is scarce in this region," she explained. "PMC gives me the opportunity to meet the needs of Pike County and related regions while taking care of rheumatology patients."

When she is not caring for patients, Dr. Khawari enjoys reading, biking, hiking, baking and cooking. She is married to Dr. Syed Hussain and together they have three beautiful children, ages nine, 10 and 13.

Dr. Khawari is located on the 8th floor of the Pam May Clinic Building. To make an appointment, please call 606-218-2208.

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- Dr. Angela Maggard, PMC OB/GYN

Source: Mayo Clinic



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Former Cancer Patient of Dr. Lavigne Carrying Out Late Brother's Wishes

BY AMY CHARLES

Cancer survivors often come out the other side of the fight with a renewed purpose. This was true for Tammy Schroder, a former patient of Dr. Ruth Lavigne, Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) Radiation Oncologist. This purpose inspired her brother, Bob Guthrie, who was losing his own fight with cancer, to do as she had done.

Schroder began seeing Dr. Lavigne in 2013 for radiation treatments for breast cancer, back when her practice was still in Cincinnati. "When I initially met Tammy, I was struck with her sensitivity and empathy toward the patients around her," said Dr. Lavigne. "She has such a giving spirit and tremendous faith."

Soon after, Dr. Lavigne informed Schroder that she and her husband, Dr. Brad Collett, were moving their practice to Pikeville. She explained that the instances of breast and lung cancers were high in this area and she felt like they could do the most good with their skills and treatment abilities.

"Dr. Lavigne and Dr. Collett are the heroes in this story," Schroder expressed. "They are the ones who gave up their life in the city to move to Pikeville to serve more patients."

Schroder visits Pikeville twice a year for her check-ups with Dr. Lavigne. Each time she visits, she brings gifts for the radiation oncology patients of PMC, primarily with breast cancer.

"While having cancer you are given a platform," Schroder explained. "And I just felt that I am blessed with so many friends and family, that they would join in my

efforts to help cancer patients in Pikeville. So I just ask and people give."

The first time Schroder and her friends visited, they brought food. She made a simple request on Facebook and people in her community began bringing things to her home. "I compared it to the story in the Bible of the loaves and the fishes," Schroder said. "The food just multiplied on my porch."

"The fact that she and her friends give so selflessly to others, and the work they pour into the giving, speaks volumes," said Dr. Lavigne. Now when they visit, they bring lovely handbags filled with items that Schroder knows first-hand are beneficial to breast cancer patients. "These gifts mean so very much to patients at such a critical time in their lives," Dr. Lavigne expressed. "Their impact can't be described in words, only by the looks on their faces."

The bags Schroder and her friends have put together are filled with personal care items, lotion, soap, body wash, a blanket, a hat, etc. This act of generosity and kindness inspired her brother to request that she continue her work and not forget about the men fighting cancer. After her brother's death, Schroder and the close friends who had been helping with her efforts at PMC started the Bobby G. Memorial Fund.

"We asked in lieu of flowers, for donations to the Bobby G. Memorial Fund," said Schroder. "To date we have had \$10,000 donated! With my brother's passing and his wishes to help send donations, it is a beautiful way to honor his legacy," said Schroder. All of those close to him were encouraged to donate to this fund so that these friends could purchase



Walmart gift cards to be added to the gifts given to PMC's radiation oncology patients. Dr. Lavigne and Dr. Collett use their own discretion to determine need to distribute the gift cards to their patients.

"The money will be used to support Dr. Lavigne and Dr. Collett as long as they are in Pikeville," Schroder said. This group of ladies met with the doctors on their last visit to Pikeville to find out what the needs of their male patients might be. More specialized gifts for men will be delivered on their next trip. "This is not about me," said Schroder. "I had so much wonderful support during my cancer and I just wanted to give back. To whom much is given much is expected."

"Tammy has begun a movement of goodness, supported by her friends and the wishes of her brother at his own end-of-life due to cancer," Dr. Lavigne concluded. "We could not be more grateful to each and every one of them."



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EDITORIAL:

When old problems become new again, our communities suffer

Floyd County Detention Center employees have battled a leaky roof for years, and the problem has persisted to the point that Jailer Stuart "Bear" Halbert said it is now "uncontrollable."

Employees there removed ceiling tiles and placed buckets throughout the front area of the building, and they installed a tarp in the booking area to catch water from several leaks and funnel that water into a trash can. Lights have been turned off because they're full of water and employees get dripped on while they're trying to do their job.

Halbert said the jail's "patching days are over with," and praised county officials for taking steps to find funding to fix the problems.

That effort happened last July, when the Fiscal Court worked out a deal to end the county's \$2.2 million debt for Thunder Ridge and paid off loans taken out for other projects decades ago. But the funding to fix the roof was not in the county's hands until October, and officials said the work could not be completed in

the winter months because of the weather.

That's why the fiscal court voted this week to start the bidding process to fix or replace the leaky roof, a problem that will leave taxpayers forking over a hefty sum. In this meeting, the sense of urgency was so great, that the resolution allows the judge-executive to award the bid on his own, without input from fiscal court members.

We understand there's a process to the bidding requirements — like evaluations that needed to be done before the project could be let out to bid — and we don't doubt that Judge-Executive Ben Hale will select the lowest and best bid, as required. We'd argue, however, that it would have been best to start the evaluation process earlier so that the bids could have been awarded as soon as the county got its hands on the funds. That, perhaps, would have alleviated the daily aggravation jail employees have no doubt been dealing with lately. It's disrespectful and ridiculous that they have to work in a place in such

disrepair.

Hale told us this month that the problems with the jail's roof, maintenance problems in the courthouse and other buildings and issues in the county road department were caused by a lack of planning and proper maintenance in prior years. He explained, for example, that not placing filters on the courthouse's heating and cooling system years ago caused a build-up of residue that impacted heating there this year. He also talked about outdated road department equipment and the lack of a road maintenance plan that impacts travelers today.

The county government has been patching itself out of problems for decades — and we don't quite understand why it was that way years ago, when coal severance funding was abundant. It appears that decisions made to save a buck during prior administrations leaves all of Floyd County holding the bill for at least some repairs on problems that may have been prevented with proper maintenance.

We understand and we see

that things are different with county government in recent years, as officials paid down debts so they can get more funding to fix these old problems. Improvements have been made, but more work needs to be done in that regards.

When old problems become new again, taxpayers are left holding the bag, and there's only one way to fix that problem: Planning.

All local governments need strategic plans for economic growth, as well as strategic maintenance plans for all properties, roads and equipment, for every service that local government funds with taxpayer dollars. A couple of cities, Prestonsburg and Allen, have already adopted strategic plans, but other local governments are lacking.

All local governments should already have strategic plans in place that not only address these needs, but also evaluate and detail how these needs will be met as the community grows, or shrinks, in future years. We should not be letting things de-

cline to the point that they become "uncontrollable," to where the local government could face legal ramifications from employees who are tired of getting wet or staying cold or getting injured because they work with outdated equipment and in unsanitary conditions.

With the downturn of the coal economy, residents have left Floyd County in droves, seeking work in other counties and states. That means there's less money coming into the local government coffers, as ailing infrastructure and buildings plague whatever growth our communities can strive to attain.

Without a point-by-point strategic guide that survives the coming-and-goings of political leaders and priorities, Floyd County and its cities will never grow. Without specific, detailed strategic planning and cooperation, we're walking blindly, and we'll forever be playing the "patching game," just as we have with the jail's deplorable roof.

GUEST EDITORIAL:

Congress should make good on debts to coal country. Now.

Congress should renew a tax on coal companies that supports medical treatment for miners disabled by black lung and expires at the end of this year. A vicious resurgence of the incurable disease gives lawmakers little choice.

Renewing the tax now would accomplish a dual purpose by clearing the way to return \$1 billion to coal-mining regions where the money is already owed, via the RECLAIM Act sponsored by Rep. Hal Rogers of Kentucky.

Local officials and others from Eastern Kentucky have been pushing to include RECLAIM in a spend-

ing bill that Congress must pass by March 23.

The legislation would accelerate payments from the Abandoned Mine Lands fund for promoting economic development and repairing environmental damage from mining in places hardest hit by coal's decline.

Under congressional rules, that spending (even though the money already is there) must be offset with cuts or revenue somewhere else in the budget. Renewing the black-lung tax would provide the offset.

But, even without that incentive, Congress will have to renew the tax be-

cause the incidence of the most advanced form of black lung, progressive massive fibrosis, is rapidly increasing, even among miners with less than 20 years on the job.

"An unacceptably large number of younger miners ... have end-stage disease and the only choice is to get a lung transplant or wait it out and die," David J. Blackley, an epidemiologist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, told The New York Times.

Blackley led research, published last month, confirming the largest cluster of advanced black lung on record in an area that in-

cludes Southeastern Kentucky. More than 400 miners seen at three clinics in southwestern Virginia had PMF. Even that probably understates the black lung resurgence.

What's the industry response? To push for a rollback of dust-control regulations.

Black lung is caused by breathing coal dust and silica released when miners cut through rock and coal.

In response to the upsurge in black lung, the Obama administration in 2014 issued a new rule that lowered dust exposure limits in coal mines and required more frequent air

monitoring. The rule has withstood a court challenge by the industry but now is at risk from a sweeping review of federal regulations announced last year by President Donald Trump.

In 1977, Congress imposed a tax on mined coal to provide benefits to black lung victims whose employers had gone out of business. Coal industry bankruptcies and the industry's decline have put many sick miners in Kentucky in that spot. In 2008, Congress raised the tax to \$1.10 per ton of underground coal and 55 cents per ton of surface-mined coal.

At that time, payments

from the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund were in decline. But because of the disease's increase, payments from the fund to sick miners and their dependents are again increasing.

An energy trade publication, E&E News, recently reported that Rogers wants to keep the current black lung tax rather than let it return to 1977 levels, as it will without congressional action.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has supported a different version of the RECLAIM Act, should join his fellow Kentuckian in looking out for constituents who sacrificed hugely to keep coal mines running.

Congress should stop stalling and make good on these debts to coal country now.

— Lexington Herald-Leader

CHRONICLE & TIMES

LETTERS OR COMMENTS:

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Robert Campbell 2018.
Robert James Campbell, 21, of Prestonsburg, died Tuesday, Mar. 20,

Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Stevie Crum
Stevie Eugene Crum, 46, of Harold, died Tues-

day, Mar. 20, 2018.
Arrangements are under the direction of Hall Funeral Home of Martin.

Sie Hamilton
Sie B. Hamilton, 85, of Harold, died Wednes-

day, Mar. 21, 2018.
Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home of Martin.

Floyd joins other counties to create Chatterwha Trace Water Trail

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

Floyd County plans to join hands with surrounding counties in Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia to create what they hope will become a river-based tourist attraction.

The Floyd County Fiscal Court recently approved entering into an interlocal agreement with several surrounding counties and cities as part of the project, which would establish the Chatterwha Trace Water Trail throughout Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia.

Project organizer Lara Pack, a "catalyst" for the Paintsville/Johnson County Trail Town Committee, said leaders in Floyd, Pike, Johnson and Lawrence counties, Paintsville, Louisa, Pikeville, Coal Run Village, Elkhorn City, Catlettsburg and Ft. Gay, West Virginia have already pledged their commitment to the interlocal agreement. The local governments of Prestonsburg and Boyd County have also been asked to participate, and the agreement infers that future partnerships will expand to other areas, including Virginia.

"Now is just the perfect time for these things," Pack said. "These things are foremost in people's thoughts, a

regional collaboration on anything. We have finally reached the apex and we've realized that we cannot stand on our own and be as successful as we can as a region."

Pack, of Boonscamp, is a native of Floyd County and former county government employee. She's lived in Johnson County since 1997 and is an active volunteer for the city's trail town committee. The river trail is one of many projects that group is involved in, and it all comes with what she describes as not just a need to bring in more tourists, but the need to "create a vibe" in communities so that people who come here want to stay longer.

"By having a regional partnership, we're not only going to get folks here for a one-day event," she said. "We may be able to get them here and have them stay in the region for their entire vacation ... We're all about this whole, comprehensive package. It's not just about bringing people to our trails, but creating a vibe that makes them want to stay when they come."

She said a Johnson County resident has already installed a river access point on his property and offers a free campground there for river trail tourists.

The trail town committee, which

hosted a Chatterwha Trace River Run event in Johnson County last year, wanted a water trail name for several portions of the Big Sandy to make the region more marketable to tourists, and, in doing so, they considered the region's history.

For at least a decade, the Big Sandy Area Development District has worked to pinpoint areas along the river that highlight the region's history, Pack said. Some of those historical places were considered in the naming of the Chatterwha Trace Water Trail.

The agreement explained that Native Americans used the river originally used that name for the river, which they utilized as a major hunting and trading route. It means "shining waters."

Local governments that sign the agreement agree to "affirm and support" the Chatterwha Trace Water Trail, noting that its designation as a Blue Water Trail by the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife will "be of value and benefit" to residents.

The designation of this water trail would span from Millard and Elkhorn City in Pike County, where the Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River is located, into areas like Floyd County where the Levisa Fork is located, and to Catlettsburg in Boyd County, where the river

is known as the Big Sandy. This effort comes in addition to efforts by the Friends of the Tug Fork, who recently established their part of the river as a Blue Water Trail.

Pack said officials hope to work with fish and wildlife departments in other states to establish a regional, multi-state partnership for the Chatterwha Trace Water Trail.

"It's a great thing," she said. "I see such a great future for adventure tourism in our region."

In signing the agreement, local government leaders pledge to help create access points "where possible" on the Chatterwha Trace, and to jointly promote it as the Chatterwha Trace Water Trail. In signing the agreement, the local government leaders promise to "work in synergy with those resolved to promote" the Tug Fork and the Russell Fork rivers as well, to make the local river system "a shining example of regional as well as interstate collaboration."

The Floyd County Fiscal Court unanimously approved the agreement during its special meeting on March 20, with Judge-Executive Ben Hale talking about how increasing tourism can help the local economy.

Road funds addressed by fiscal court

By **MARY MEADOWS**
STAFF WRITER

A discussion about the amount of rural and secondary road funding the county will receive from the state this year brought out frustration about a stalled road project during a fiscal court meeting this week.

On March 20, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Highway District 12 Section Engineer Matt Moore gave his annual rural and secondary road fund presentation to the Floyd County Fiscal Court, detailing that agency's list of priority road projects that are planned for Floyd County.

Explaining that he is seeking input on road projects from fiscal court members, Moore said the county will receive \$1.7 million in rural and secondary road funding, made available via a tax on gasoline, and he broke down how the state wants to use those

funds.

He said \$794,000 will be used by the Transportation Cabinet to maintain 130 miles of rural roads in Floyd County, with snow and ice removal, mowing and other needs. Of the remaining funds, about \$3,800 will be given to the judge's office for administrative expenses, \$151,000 will be set aside as FLEX funding that can be used to fix county roads and \$763,000 will be used by the state to fix rural secondary roads.

Moore said with the \$763,000 remaining, the state plans to replace a pipe on Rt. 2030 near a coal mining company, and plans to patch asphalt on Rt. 194 in Cow Creek, Rt. 3385 in Buffalo, Ky. 777, Ky. 1100 near Rt. 3, Rt. 1498 in Jack's Creek and Rt. 1750.

Judge-Executive Ben Hale requested the replacement of a culvert on Rt. 850 in the Prater Fork area, saying it stops up frequently. When he asked for in-

put from other members, Magistrate Ronnie Akers asked Moore to clarify the progress on the Minnie-Harold connector project, which is in his district.

Construction is nearly complete on all but one section of the Minnie-Harold connector, which is planned to connect Rt. 680 with U.S. 23 in Harold. The Transportation Cabinet announced the beginning of construction on the next-to-last section of the road in 2015, but, with more than \$80 million already invested in this project, a two-mile section in the center of this road is still incomplete at this time.

Moore said a section that stretches from Simpson's Branch to Little Mud is 80 percent complete at this time, and that section should be done this calendar year.

"At that point, will the people in Little Mud, will they get to use that ramp, going on to the new road,

then?" Akers asked.

Another transportation cabinet official who attended the meeting said that possibility "has been discussed" but there is no "official answer" yet.

"That would be a tremendous help to us, with the people in the head of Little Mud, if you could get that open, you know, once you get it blacktopped and all of that," Akers responded.

Judge-Executive Ben Hale pointed asked Moore to clarify that the final section in the center of this road has been "put on hold."

"I think the House, recently passed, I guess, the six-year plan," Moore said, pointing out that the plan was being considered in the Senate and could change.

The two-year spending plan approved recently by the Kentucky House did not include funding to complete the center section of the road. It is set to receive more than \$13 million for completion in 2021 and nearly \$20 million in 2022 in the new six-year road plan, House Joint Resolution 75, which was approved by the House when the

two-year road project funding plan was also approved.

Moore told the fiscal court the project is still in the six-year road plan, but he confirmed that, at this point, no money is being considered to complete it within the next two years.

He and Hale pointed out the funding bill before it is finally passed.

Akers also asked whether planned construction from Branhams Creek to John M. Stumbo school is also off the six-year-road plan, but Moore said he couldn't remember specific projects in the plan. Officials pointed out that the final plan will not be known until the bill is finally approved because it can change in each step of the legislative process.

Hale pointed out, "But the thing about it is...if it does not get into that biennium budget, it is not going to be funded. It has to be within that two-year plan and that budgetary process. If it does not get mentioned, it will not, you can't, Transportation can't come back and add it in because that is law."

"That's correct," Moore told him.

"If they don't get that put in within this two-year budget cycle, we could probably say that's another two years that this thing has been held up," Hale said. "And it's a shame, because I've mentioned it before, that we've got a road that is vital to our area that's got the front end and the back end done and they've got a two-mile stretch that needs to be done."

He said it would improve economic development and access to emergency services, saying that "it's silly that we're not getting that."

"That is a very important road for Floyd County and it needs to be finished," Hale said.

Asking Moore whether state leaders seek input from the Transportation Cabinet about priorities for road projects, County Attorney Keith Bartley said not finishing the Minnie-Harold connector "doesn't make a dang bit of sense."

Moore said he'd check back with county leaders in a couple of weeks to see if they had any more priorities for the rural and secondary road funding.

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Prestonsburg fire department is nationally-recognized

By MARY MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

After more than two years of work, the Prestonsburg Fire Department helped the city achieve national recognition.

Kessley Baker, the Firewise Program Coordinator and employee at the Kentucky Division of Forestry in Hazard, presented Prestonsburg Fire Department Chief Mike Brown with a plaque and road signs designating the city as a Firewise USA community on March 19. She presented the items on behalf of the Division of Forestry and the National Fire Protection Association, which administers the Firewise program during a city council meeting.

"I've been working with them for about two years now, and they have put in a lot of time and research and hard work into making this community a safer and stronger community against wildfires," Baker said.

Prestonsburg is one of nine Firewise communities in the state and there are 1,400 communities in America with the designation, Baker reported. The community of Belfry in Pike County, where Brown previously worked, is one of the state's oldest Firewise USA sites, she said.

She told Prestonsburg City Council members the designation is "an outstanding achievement" for the fire department.

Brown said he decided to seek Firewise status after touring Prestonsburg when he was hired two years ago.

"I seen there was a need for it," he said. "There was a lot of areas, mostly in the North Floyd area, where we had some real issues with forest fires."

The Firewise program provides free informational resources that the fire department can distribute to educate the public. The program is geared to help fire departments organize wildfire fire safety efforts, enhance communities it serves and receive access to grant funding.

Baker said the city has received the Kentucky Community Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Grant for the 2016 and 2017 grant cycles to help fund wildfire risk reduction activities and equipment. She said that up to \$20,000 in grant funding may be awarded each grant cycle in the program, and the city is required to provide a 20 percent match for the grants.

To qualify for the designation, the fire department conducted an extensive wildfire risk assessment in Prestonsburg, created a Firewise committee, created an action plan, and, among other requirements, pledged to invest in wildfire risk reduction.

Baker said the fire department conducted 800 home assessments to determine the wildfire risks at those locations. The assessments evaluated the construction of the homes and oth-

er variables, including whether homes are located near wooded areas.

"They did 800 home assessments and that research, all of that data, went into creating a risk assessment and a community wildfire protection plan," she said. "So, all that information put together, they have looked at the risk through the area, with the help of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, and, kind of, set aside the priorities for Prestonsburg, basically broke down in community priorities, homeowner priorities and educational priorities."

She talked about simple things home owners can do to reduce their fire risk, including mowing grass, raking leaves and other types of maintenance.

"Just those simple few things could greatly reduce your wildfire risk, and if you do that ahead of time and be proactive, then that means that the fire department and emergency personnel can do more to save more and to help more people," Baker said.

Brown also highlighted proactive home maintenance issues, saying the department suggests homeowners use gravel instead of mulch for landscaping near homes and keep shrubs about 100 feet away from homes.

Brown said the department used grant funding on Wednesday to buy 150 sets of reflective house numbers that his team hopes to install on Prestonsburg homes that have house numbers that are difficult to see. That project will help emergency responders find these homes after dark, he explained.

He commended his employees for their effort, talking about how they've volunteered in this project.

"They're great," he said. "I've just been here two years now. It's kind of hard when you bring someone in; change is hard, but, you know, we've worked together and we've overcome a lot of obstacles. These guys have really bought into what I've wanted to do and they're supportive. They're great. I have a great group of guys and I wouldn't want to work anywhere else."

The city's wildfire protection plan details things the fire department can do over the next five years to curb wildfire problems in the city. The plan may be changed or rearranged, Baker said, based on community needs.

Brown said there are representatives from all areas of Prestonsburg on the Firewise committee. He invites Prestonsburg residents to attend committee meetings, which will be promoted on the department's Facebook page.

"We welcome everyone to come out because that's how we can better improve things," he said.

For more information about the program or the committee, call Brown at, (606) 886-2335, or visit, firewise.org.

PLEAD

Continued From Page 1A

was bruised.

Video footage revealed that Lewis and Paige started arguing at the picnic table and Lewis jumped on the table, then jumped onto Paige and hit him. They continued to fight with several others joining in to hit Paige, the citation said.

While that fight was ongoing, the inmates "fought over to where" Thacker was using the telephone. "They bumped into him a couple of times and on the last time," Thacker hit Paige in the face, the citation says.

The fight between Paige and Thacker continued until they "made it to the door" of a cell housing Stewart, who, the video showed, kicked Paige in "either the head or body" with his right foot.

Lewis, Thacker and Stewart pleaded guilty to fourth degree assault and menacing on March 7 and were sentenced to 15 days in jail. They were given credit for time served.

Their sentences were significantly less than that of another inmate who faced the same charges following a fight

that occurred a few days later.

Joshua Emil McDonald, 29, of Martin, was also charged with assault and menacing in a separate fight that occurred on March 5 at approximately 11:49 p.m. at the jail.

In that citation, Lt. Parker DeRossett notified Sgt. Greg Johnson and Sgt. Keith Duncan that an inmate was being moved out of a cell. When they arrived, they saw inmate Jacob Carpenter "standing there with blood on his face." They claimed that McDonald was "standing there shaking and with red knuckles and red marks on him."

A review of a video showed McDonald "jumped on" Carpenter and "hit him several times in the head with both hands and also kicked him," the citation said. Carpenter had a small cut on the left side of his face.

McDonald pleaded guilty at his arraignment on March 7 and received 12 months for the assault charge and 90 days for the menacing charge, to run concurrently. He was also given credit for time served.

Jailer Stuart Halbert said fights are a common occurrence at the jail,

where cells house 18 or so inmates, but these incidents are less common than they used to be.

"When I first started, Floyd County was considered a blood bath," he said. "There was a fight every day on average."

He said he met with officials from the county attorney and commonwealth attorney's office after he took office and they started filing charges against inmates who fight in the jail.

"We went from having, probably, a fight a day to may having one every two weeks now, if even that much," he said. "When you start adding 30 or 90 days to these guys' sentences, they don't want to fight as much."

Video cameras are in every inmate cell, he said. When a fight occurs, jail officials turn those videos over to the county attorney's office, and officials there review them to determine who should be charged and whether some inmates involved don't warrant charges because they were trying to defend themselves.

He said no inmates were transported to the hospital for emergency care following these incidents because only minor injuries were reported.

CHANGE

Continued From Page 1A

implications as a guilty plea, but without any admission of actual guilt.

"It's rare, but the facts in this case are rare," Pillersdorf said. "Jerry's had a series of strokes, and he's been diagnosed with dementia, and he does not remember the basis for why they've indicted him. We can't just walk in there and plead guilty, because you have to describe to the judge what you did, which, in Jerry's case, is impossible. He's got significant memory loss."

Pillersdorf said that he still "strongly" disagrees with U.S. District Judge Karen Caldwell's finding that Fannin would be competent to stand trial.

"At this point it's moot, but nobody denies that he's had these strokes and is suffering from dementia," Pillersdorf said.

Pillersdorf said the U.S. Department of Justice has permitted the Alford plea to be acceptable, and the prosecution has said they're not opposed to probation.

Current Mayor Les Stapleton, when reached for comment, said the City of Prestonsburg was never notified or included in the plea negotiations.

"We are not opposed to anything proposed, other than we feel as though restitution would be in order," Stapleton said.

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Keep an open mind and a clear head, and be reluctant to let anger get the better of you. How you react to a charged situation will make a difference to your status, position and reputation. Being consistent and productive will serve you well and ward off anxiousness and frustration.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – Don't pick a fight or let anyone goad you into a debate. Keeping a steady pace is your best option when dealing with controversy. Say little and do what's expected of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – You'll have the upper hand, as long as you speak up and take care of your affairs personally. Emotional energy will be running high, allowing you to take care of unfinished business.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Go over your bills and financial statements before you donate money to a cause or commit to a purchase. Temptation will be intense when it comes to personal items that you can live without.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Do your best to stabilize your position. Whether you are dealing with a colleague or someone you live with, aim to keep the peace.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Know what something costs before agreeing to move forward. Overspending on items for your home will leave you in a quandary. Put a cap on your spending.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Get pumped up and participate. Engaging in something that challenges you physically will lead to a wakeup call regarding your health. A change to your daily routine may be necessary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – Problems at home will affect your productivity at work and

**DAILY
ASTROGRAPH**
by Eugenia Last



domestic relationships. Listen carefully, but don't let anyone control or manipulate you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – An investment you've been hanging on to will give you a financial boost. Take advantage of a good deal and make a move that will improve your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Put more effort into improving your love life or building a strong family unit to improve your long-term personal prospects. A shared adventure will bring you and another closer together.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – Tie up loose ends before moving on to downtime. If you leave something undone, someone will bring it to your attention and it will turn into a big deal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – Emotional matters can escalate fast when someone you love is involved. Looking out for someone will be appreciated, but don't take charge. Teach others to do for themselves.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – Explore new possibilities, but don't jump in without testing what's being offered. Altering your lifestyle will result in setbacks if you aren't fully prepared to make a change.

TODAY'S SUDOKU PUZZLE

**HOW
TO
PLAY:**

- Each column has to have numbers 1 to 9
- Each row has to have numbers 1 to 9
- Each 3x3 Box has to have numbers 1 to 9

				5		9	4		
		5							
6	8					7		2	
1			8	6				2	
		4							
	7		1						
	5		2	3					
			6		1		4		
3					4				1

All answers are in today's Mingo Messenger

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13				14						15				
16			17							18				
19						20		21						
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37					38				39			40		
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56	57	58					59				60			
61						62		63	64					
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Move jauntily
 - 4 Hawthorne's town
 - 9 Mild expletive
 - 13 Role for Madonna
 - 14 Port near Kyoto
 - 15 Hunger for
 - 16 Jewelry box items
 - 18 Busy places
 - 19 Brought to bay
 - 20 Most expensive
 - 22 Huffs and puffs
 - 25 Lose leaves
 - 26 "Peachy keen"
 - 28 Tight situation
 - 32 Costly
 - 36 Overblown
 - 37 Do a takeoff
 - 38 Quart, plus
 - 40 "NOVA" subj.
 - 41 Like city lots
 - 44 Smoothest
 - 47 Shiny paint
 - 49 Lathen and Thompson
 - 50 S&L customer
 - 52 Used a nozzle
 - 56 Twisters
 - 60 Author — Ingalls Wilder
 - 61 Loaf
 - 62 Quibbler
 - 65 Gray rock
 - 66 Gather after harvest
 - 67 Libras' mo.
 - 68 Ceremonial fire
 - 69 Distorts
 - 70 Highest degree
 - 31 Revise
 - 32 Enjoy the hammock
 - 33 Above
 - 34 Lucy Lawless role
 - 35 Looks like
 - 39 Gangplank
 - 42 Stream forth
 - 43 Series of ten
 - 45 Miami team
 - 46 Violinist — Stern
 - 48 Digital watch readout
 - 51 Ice grabbers
 - 53 Jack London setting
 - 54 Not slouching
 - 55 "Star Wars" name
 - 56 Recipe meas.
 - 57 Busy European airport
 - 58 Rise on the hind legs
 - 59 Luxury fabric
 - 63 Undershirt
 - 64 Bear's foot
- DOWN**
- 1 Inclinations
 - 2 Conspicuous
 - 3 Expectant dad, perhaps
 - 4 Draftee
 - 5 Red — — beet
 - 6 Shellac resin
 - 7 Supplements
 - 8 Sail supports
 - 9 Wash-and-wear (hyph.)
 - 10 Utter deliriously
 - 11 Rds.
 - 12 Audition
 - 15 Chong's partner
 - 17 Reeves of "The Matrix"
 - 21 Codgers' queries
 - 23 Fasten permanently
 - 24 Zero follower
 - 27 Outlandish
 - 29 Domed recess
 - 30 Chest muscles

ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



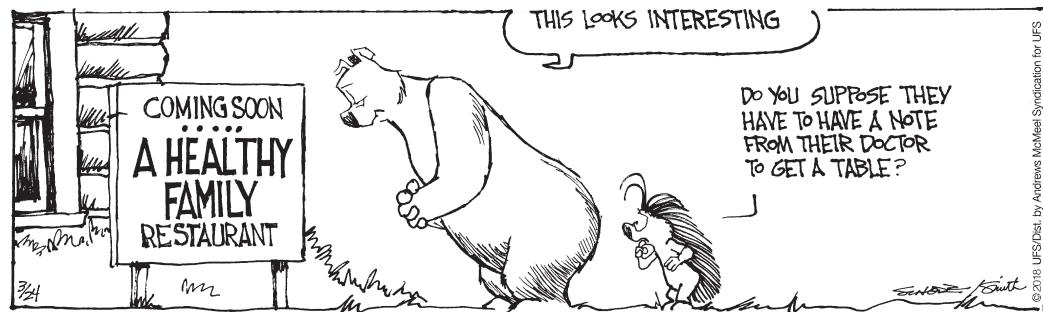
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FAITH

Weekend Edition, March 23 - 25, 2018 • Page 10A

Living godly lives

The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the ways of his father David before him. He did not consult the Baals but sought the God of his father and followed his commands rather than the practices of Israel — 2 Chronicles 17:3-4

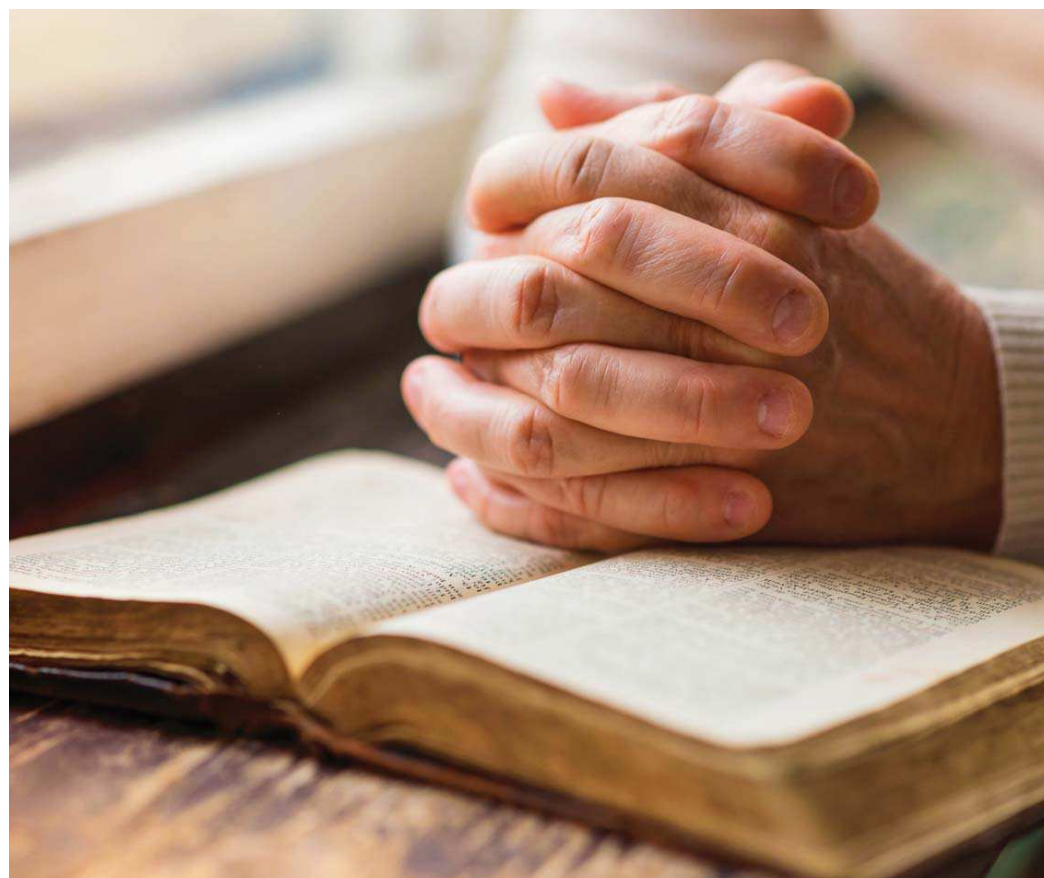
Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. — Psalm 33:8-9

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth — Psalm 33:12-14

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. — Daniel 2:22b-21a

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations. — Psalm 22: 27-28

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all de-



ceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. — 1 Peter 2:1

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you

are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. — 1 Peter 2:9

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority:

whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. — 1 Peter 2:11-17

Giving up sin

Let's be honest. We know that we have certain sins that we just can't seem to give up. Whether we think of it as sin, or as vice, or just as a bad habit, there are areas of our lives where we just can't rid ourselves of the sin or vice in question. Maybe it has become such a part of our personality that it's almost a character trait. Maybe we are convinced that our life would be miserable without this one harmless vice. But is it really so harmless? There are all sorts of ways that we rationalize our sinful behavior. We tell ourselves it could be worse, or that it is our only real vice and that God forgives all, or maybe we tell ourselves that it isn't really a sin. But if your conscience continues to nag you about this particular activity, then perhaps you should be listening more carefully to your conscience. Perhaps this sin is some way that you are mistreating your body by abusing drugs or alcohol, or perhaps you are engaging in sins of the flesh that involve lust. Or perhaps you are letting your anger and ill will towards others lead you into sin. Most all of these sins have an internal component. The sin starts as a thought that grows into an obsession, and whether it becomes an action or not, it festers away inside us, keeping us from a life of holiness and purity. Make a commitment today to work on giving up some longstanding sin. God will help you if you really desire to do this. — Christopher Simon



"For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing." —Romans 7:19 NIV

Local Church Directory

PLEASANT HOME BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Wrights Lane, Prestonsburg
Pastor Mark Tackett
Assistant Pastor Randy Polk
SUNDAYS
Sunday School — 9:45 a.m.
Worship — 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Bible Study — 7 p.m.

PRESTONSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST

88 Ky Hwy 1428, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-6223
Minister Shawn Slone
SUNDAYS
Worship — 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS
Service — 7 p.m.

PRESTONSBURG SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

421 Jack Arnette Branch, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-3459
Pastor Tony Kelley
SATURDAYS
Sabbath School — 9:30 a.m.
Worship — 11 a.m.
TUESDAYS
Evening Prayer Meeting — 7 p.m.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

137 Bryan Street, Pikeville, Ky.
Phone: 606-437-6117
Father Richard Watson
SATURDAYS
Mass - 5 p.m.
SUNDAYS
Mass — 10 a.m.

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

562 University Drive, Prestonsburg
Phone: 606-886-8046
The Rev. Sr. Judy Yunker, Vicar
Email: stjamesdiolex@gmail.com
Website: www.stjamesdiolex.org
Diocese: Lexington

ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

60 Martha's Vineyard, Prestonsburg, Ky.
606-874-9526
Fr. Bob Damron
SATURDAY
Services — 5 p.m.
SUNDAY
Services — 11:15 a.m.

VOGEL DAY METHODIST

US 23, Harold
Pastor Dennis Love
SUNDAY
Sunday School — 10 a.m.
Worship — 11 a.m.
Healing Service — 7 p.m. on last Sunday of month
WEDNESDAYS
Prayer Meeting & Youth Fellowship — 6:30 p.m.
AA Meeting — 8 p.m.

Natural disasters a warning from God?



By JAMIE BECKETT
CHRONICLE & TIMES

March came in like a lion for certain areas in the United States. Areas in the Northeast experienced heavy rain and high winds due to a nor'easter. The storm killed at least nine people. Coastal areas experienced flooding. Trees were down. A photo showed an entire street blocked because of downed power lines. An estimated two million customers were without power. Some remained without power when a second nor'easter was beginning to move in.

Severe storms seem to be on the rise. Take, for example, the 2017 hurricane season. The Weather Channel reports it was "one of the busiest and most destructive hurricane seasons on record." There were 17 named storms, which was above the 30-year average of 12, making it among "the top 10 most active Atlantic seasons on record," according to Dr. Phil Klotzbach, tropical scientist at Colorado State University.

Hurricane Harvey hit Texas and Louisiana at the end of August, "burying the region in 27 trillion gallons

of rainwater," according to CNN. The Weather Channel (TWC) notes 60 inches of rain fell — which was more than a foot above the previous record. (Records go back to 1950.) There were at least 82 deaths. Hurricane Irma came next, affecting Florida, Georgia and South Carolina and causing at least 61 deaths. Irma set its own record, holding onto a "peak intensity — 185 mph — for 37 hours which set a world record," according to TWC. Irma was at Category 5 status for three consecutive days. Hurricane Maria followed, affecting the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, taking out nearly the entire island's power supply and leaving residents without basic supplies. On November 21, the official death toll was at 55. But "a CNN investigation revealed almost 500 deaths recorded by funeral homes that could have been caused by the storm."

Not only were storms a factor, but wildfires in California caused well over \$10 billion in damage, according to CNN. The largest of the fires was the Thomas Fire. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the fire began on December 4 and burned for over a month. It wasn't 100% contained until the middle of January. Dry conditions and strong Santa Ana winds fueled the fire, according to their report. The Thomas Fire burned 281,893 acres, making it the largest wild-

fire since 1932. A reported 1,063 structures were destroyed and 280 others suffered damage.

However, the wildfires weren't the end of it. The fire removed "all of the living and dead vegetation that protected the soil beneath," according to David Peterson, a professor of forest ecology at the University of Washington. The organic matter in the soil, which helps absorb water, was "cooked out." Following the fires, heavy rains pounded the area triggering mudslides in the Santa Barbara and Montecito areas. Homes were wiped away or buried beneath the mud. A total of 21 people were killed.

Deadly natural disasters seem to be occurring more often and intensifying in their strength. Who's to say that these natural disasters are not a warning from God? Our society has continued to stray away from God. We have broken His laws. Our society is filled of heinous crimes. "We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful,

the unholy and irreligious, those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God (1 Timothy 1:9b-11a)." Our land legally allows what God has forbid. We allow babies to be legally aborted — over 60 million since Roe vs Wade in 1973. We allow gay marriage.

We accept fornication. We are adrift from God our creator.

God used natural disasters in the Bible. And perhaps, those occurring in our time are a warning, a precursor of what is to come. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness. Therefore, He's very likely to do the same to us. If we disobey God, if we leave Him, He will punish us for our sins. "The Lord is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you (2 Chronicles 15:2b)."

**If you seek him,
he will be found
by you, but if you
forsake him,
he will forsake you.**

— 2 Chronicles 15:2b

Email, mail or call us with your information.

Name of Church: _____
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Phone #: _____ Pastor: _____
Website: _____
Services: _____

(NOT PUBLISHED) Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

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TO OUR READERS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD



toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

POLICIES

The *Floyd County Chronicle and Times* reserves the right to edit, properly classify, cancel or decline any ad. We will not knowingly accept advertising that discriminates on the basis of sex, age, race, national origin or physical disability.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD

Please read your ad the first day it appears in the *Floyd County Chronicle and Times*. Report any errors immediately and we will gladly correct any errors published. Credit will be issued for one (1) day only. After the first day the ad can be corrected for the remaining number of runs, but credit will not be issued for days ad ran incorrectly.

PERSONAL AD POLICY

Ads will be printed at publisher's discretion. Publisher not responsible for results, parties responding to or placing ads.

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NEED EXTRA CASH? Run a Classified Ad. They Work! Call (800)539-4054 Today!

APARTMENTS- UNFURNISHED

2BR APARTMENT FOR rent in Prestonsburg. No pets. No HUD. Call (606)205-9510.

2BR DUPLEX, CENTRAL heat/air, total electric. Close to Prestonsburg. Call 606-886-9007 or 606-889-9747.

3 BEDROOM 2 1/2 bath available for rent. \$950.00 per month. Includes stove, refrigerator and dishwasher. Washer/Dryer hookup is available. Call 606-432-4653 or 606-794-1463.

HOUSES FOR RENT

TWO STORY, ALL brick house for rent located in Mays Branch. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, large living room, kitchen, family room, and detached two car garage. Call 606-886-2306.

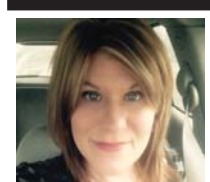
3BR, 1BA HOUSE for rent. Carport, large yard. Located between Prestonsburg and Paintsville. Call 606-886-9007 or 606-889-9747.

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

2BR, 1BA, Large Walk in shower, good shape. On Wheels Ready to Go.. Call for details 606-791-9013

ONE 3BR 2BA SINGLE WIDE MOBILE Home for rent at Auxier, \$495mo. One 3BR 2BA Doublewide for \$595mo. Call Meade Rentals 606-264-5906 to ask about application and deposit.

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT



Call me, **Gina Ferguson**, for all your advertising needs in the *Floyd County Chronicle and Times*. Enhance your selling power today! (800)539-4054

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2BR 1-1/2BA CONDO located on Lafferty Lane in Prestonsburg. Freshly painted. Hardwood floors. \$725mo. \$300dep. For more info call 606-264-5906.

LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Franklin D. May, PO Box 396 Allen, KY. 41601, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to place fill. The property is located in Dwell off of Monument Street 82 43' 19.57 37 37' 49.59. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Surface Water Permit Branch, Flood Plain Management Section, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FLOYD CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION NO. II C.A. NO. 17-CI-00735 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, et. al. PLAINTIFF, VS.

LEGALS

COLA VANCE, et. al., DEFENDANTS. NOTICE OF PENDING ACTION
By virtue of the Order of the Floyd Circuit Court, dated January 8, 2018, the undersigned was appointed to serve as Warning Order to notify Cola Vance of the pendency of a Complaint which involves the collection of a debt where certain property was used as collateral. The Complaint seeks to foreclose on the mortgage. The Complaint describes the subject real property as follows:
A certain tract or parcel of land lying in Martin, Floyd County, Kentucky, on Bucks Branch, a tributary to Beaver Creek and being more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a steel pipe at northwest corner of Lot No. 6 and road; S 38 25' W 150.00' to steel pipe a corner of

LEGALS

Lot No. 11 and 12; S 51 35' E 175.00 to steel pipe, N 38 25' E 104.00' to steel pipe in southeast corner of Lot No. 21 and road; N 37 47' W 5.55' to steel pipe corner of Lot No. 21 and Lot No. 7 and road; N 36 18' W 105.43' to the beginning.
Being the same property conveyed to Sheila Tackett Vance and Cola Vance by deed from Timothy Potter and Donna Potter recorded in Deed Book 531, Page 272, Floyd County Clerk's Office.
Notice is hereby given that Cola Vance is directed to come forward and present any claim or defense to the Complaint regarding the above-described property she may claim or be forever barred.
SIGNED, A. David Blankenship Warning Order Attorney Kinner & Patton 245 Main Street Paintsville, Kentucky 41240 (606) 789-6161

LEGALS

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO PETITION
Per KRS 81A.420, this publication shall serve to put on notice all resident voters and real property owners within the territory proposed to be annexed by City of Prestonsburg Ordinance No. 03-2018, of their right to petition the Mayor of the City of Prestonsburg to place the question of annexation on the ballot for a vote. The territory proposed to be annexed is described below:
A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED ON SPRADLIN BRANCH, FLOYD COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING at a point on the southern right-of-way of Kentucky State Route 321; said point also being a common corner to the corporate limits of the City of Prestonsburg; said point having

LEGALS

NAD27 Kentucky state plane south zone coordinate system values of North 508,627 and East 2,861,159; thence with the corporate limits and right-of-way along a curve having a radius of 1860.00 feet, an arc length of 384.85 feet, a chord length of 384.16 feet, a chord bearing of S 50°29'53" W and a delta angle of 11°51'18" to a point; thence leaving the right-of-way and continuing with the corporate limits up the hill S 82°01'51" E, 15.55 feet to a point; thence continuing up the hill S 07°07'30" E, 227.55 feet to a point; thence following the contour around Spradlin Branch for the next twenty-two (22) courses and distances: to a point; thence crossing over and tying into the southwest right-of-way of the Stonecrest access road (KY 3024) N 75°26'01" W, 562.86 feet to a

LEGALS

point; thence continuing down the hill with the right-of-way for the next fifteen (15) courses and distances: to a point; thence leaving the right-of-way N 67°02'47" W, 11.87 feet to a point at the back of a parking lot; thence with the parking lot S 40°39'55" W, 234.82 feet to a point; thence leaving the parking lot N 79°15'42" W, 134.11 feet to the southeast edge of an access road; thence with the edge of the access road for the next four (4) courses and distances: to a point on said Kentucky State Route 321 right-of-way; thence crossing the access road and with the right-of-way for the next eighteen (18) courses and distances: to the beginning and containing 128.7 acres or 5,606,831 sq. ft. The boundary depicted by this description is for annexation purposes only and is adjacent to the

LEGALS

City of Prestonsburg's corporate limits. A valid petition may be presented to the City of Prestonsburg Mayor at Prestonsburg City Hall within 60 days from the enactment of Ordinance No. 03-2018, which is on or before May 21, 2018. A valid petition must be signed by either 50% of the resident voters within the territory described above to be annexed or 50% of the real property owners within the territory described above proposed to be annexed.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
Call our advertising staff today at (800) 539-4054 for more details.

NOTICE (Of Final Settlement)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD...SCT

I, Douglas Ray Hall, Clerk of the Floyd District Court, do hereby certify that the following Settlements of Estates have been filed in my office. Anyone desiring to take exceptions to said Settlements must do so on or before April 25th, 2018 at 10:00 am.

SETTLEMENT	CASE NUMBER	ESTATE OF:	FIDUCIARY	DATE FILED
FINAL	14-P-62	SANDY BOYD	TONI BOYD	2/27/14
FINAL	15-P-13	JAMES IRICKS SR.	BOBBI IRICKS	1/12/15
FINAL	15-P-465	WADE CASTLE	MELISSA PEPPER	11/20/15
FINAL	15-P-466	BETTY WHITE	BILLY WHITE	11/23/15
FINAL	15-P-484	JAMES NICHOLS JR.	KATHY FRASURE	12/7/15
FINAL	15-P-509	KENNETH WEBB	MADELLA WEBB	12/29/15
FINAL	16-P-61	LINDA WICKER	LARRY WICKER	2/22/16
FINAL	16-P-333	ADA HALL	NAOMA SPRADLIN	8/30/16
FINAL	16-P-450	GARY BRANHAM	SAUNDRA BRANHAM	12/15/16
FINAL	17-P-223	BETTY COLLINS	LARRY COLLINS	5/30/17
FINAL	17-P-356	ZETTIE STUMBO	GERMAN STUMBO	9/11/17

LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY COUNTY OF FLOYD

I, Douglas Ray Hall, Clerk of Floyd District Court, Do hereby certify that the following persons have been appointed fiduciaries by the District Court. All person indebted to an Estate should settle with the Fiduciary within six (6) months from the date of appointment.

DATE OF APPOINTMENT	CASE NUMBER	ESTATE OF:	FIDUCIARY	ATTORNEY
2/20/18	18-P-77	ELIZABETH WILSON	REX WILSON	
2/22/18	18-P-83	JIMMIE JOHNSON	NORA JOHNSON	
2/28/18	18-P-89	ROBERT SPEARS	VIRGIE SPEARS	
2/28/18	18-P-90	OKEY MARSILLETT	RICKY MILLER	
3/5/18	18-P-95	MABLE MORRIS	VALERIE WARRIX	
3/6/18	18-P-96	PAUL HORN	PAUL HORN JR.	ROBERT J. PATTON
3/6/18	18-P-97	MANIS OUSLEY	ALVA OUSLEY	
3/7/18	18-P-98	BOBBIE BURCHETT	ARLENE BURCHETT	
3/8/18	18-P-100	RICKY CAUDILL	TONIA CAUDILL	
3/8/18	18-P-103	EVERETT BLANTON	CAROL BLANTON	
3/8/18	18-P-104	SIDNEY BOYD	MYRTLE BOYD	
3/9/18	18-P-105	ELAINE NEWSOME	VINCE NEWSOME	
3/9/18	18-P-106	RONALD LEMASTER	JEAN LEMASTER	CASEY M. JONES
3/9/19	18-P-108	GEORGE HALL	MARY HALL	
3/13/18	18-P-109	WILEY ELLIOTT	PHYLLIS ELLIOTT	MARTIN L. OSBORNE
3/12/18	18-P-107	ANNETTE MULLINS	CHARLES MULLINS	
3/15/18	18-P-113	JAMES LITTLE	STACY LITTLE	
3/15/18	18-P-114	WYOMA DUFF	MARLENE FARRIS	ASHLEY TACKETT LAFERTY
3/15/18	18-P-115	PATTY MEADE	RONALD MEADE	
3/16/18	18-P-116	JOHN STEPHENS JR.	JOHN STEPHENS III	JOSHUA K. KINZER
3/19/18	18-P-119	DEBORAH GOEBEL	LEWIS THOMAS	RALPH H. STEVENS

Needed

Receptionist/Office Assistant in Prestonsburg, KY. High School Diploma/GED required. Basic knowledge of Microsoft Office Applications, specifically MS Word and Excel. Send Resume to ECC04, P.O. Box 802, Pikeville KY 41502



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FAST FREE PICKUP - 24 HR RESPONSE - TAX DEDUCTION 1-877-624-2030</p> <p>Business Services</p> <p>HughesNet Satellite Internet FOR BUSINESS. 25mbps for just \$69.99/mo! Get More Data FREE Off-Peak Data. Built-in WiFi for wireless devices. FREE Standard Installation. CALL 1-855-893-3174</p> <p>Cable/Utilities</p> <p>DISH TV \$59.99 For 190 Channels</p>	<p>\$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-855-633-4574</p> <p>DIRECTV SELECT PACKAGE! Over 150 Channels! ONLY \$35/month (for 12 mos.) Order Now! Get a \$200 AT&T Visa Rewards Gift Card (some restrictions apply) CALL 1-866-292-5435</p> <p>Cellular</p> <p>GET AN IPHONE 8 or Samsung Galaxy8 for \$34/month. Call AT&T Wireless</p>	<p>today to learn how to get a new phone. Call while supplies last. 1-866-478-8859</p> <p>Financial Services</p> <p>ARE YOU IN DEBT? Get help now with a 30 minute Phone debt analysis. M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All eastern time. 1-877-616-2506</p> <p>HAVE 10K IN DEBT? National Debt Relief is rated A-Plus with the BBB. You could be debt free in 24-48 months. Call 1-877-934-0632 now for a free debt evaluation.</p>	<p>Grocery</p> <p>ENJOY 100% guaranteed, delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! SAVE 75% PLUS get 4 more Burgers & 4 more Kielbasa FREE! Order The Family Gourmet Buffet - ONLY \$49.99. Call 1-855-995-4780 mention code 51689NHJ or visit www.omahasteaks.com/dinner28</p> <p>Health Services</p> <p>**STOP STRUGGLING ON THE STAIRS** Give your life a lift with an ACORN STAIRLIFT! Call now for \$250 OFF your stairlift purchase and FREE DVD & brochure! 1-855-709-8829</p> <p>VIAGRA AND CIALIS USERS! Cut your drug costs! SAVE \$8! 50 Pills for \$99.00. FREE Shipping! 100% Guaranteed and Discreet. CALL 1-855-535-2511</p> <p>SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB #1 Selling Walk-in Tub in North America. BBB Accredited. Arthritis Foundation Commendation. 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Spring SERVICE GUIDE

TIP OF THE WEEK: Water your lawn early in the day. Less water will be lost to evaporation. Limit watering to a few times per week, and less if you have had adequate rain. Avoid watering at night, which can expose the lawn to bacteria and attract insects.

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Marriages, property transfers filed in Floyd

SPECIAL TO THE FLOYD CHRONICLE AND TIMES

The following marriages and property transfers have recently been filed in the Floyd County Clerk's office:

Marriages filed

Annette Mullins, 50, of Oil Springs, to Charles Curtis Newsome, 48, of Harold
 Shana Rose Ritchie, 20, of Wayland, to Christopher David Horn, 22, of Prestonsburg
 Courtney Michelle Crum, 28, of Prestonsburg, to Michael David Lawson, 28, of Prestonsburg
 Teresa Ann Couch Ramey, 48, of Ivel, to Clinton Shane Tucker, 41, of Ivel
 Gregory Adam Dixon, 33, of Prestonsburg, to Tiffany Jean-Marie Billiter, 26, of Prestonsburg
 Cheyenne Pai-Lyn Cooke, 21, of Prestonsburg to Adam Lee Adkins, 26, of Honaker
 Misty Sue Knott, 42, of McDowell, to Greg Howell, 51, of McDowell

Property Transfers filed

Bill Conley, Tonya Conley to Brian Nelson Properties LLC; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 549)
 Floyd County Board of Education to Kentucky Power Company; easement location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 553)
 Clifford Hall, Ellen Hall to Ashton Faith Hall, Ellen Hall; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 557)
 Clifford Hall to Ellen Hall; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 561)

Wight David Setser, Haga Setser, Howard W. Setser, Jack Setser, Roger Setser, Thelma Setser, Tricia Lynn Setser to Kaleb Setser, guardian, Tricia Lynn Setser; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 564)

Sherry McDonald to William Edward Isom II; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 570)

Lonzo Bowling, Ramona Bowling to John W. Burke; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 573)

Dana Paul Smith to Deanna Smith Nanny; property locations unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pgs. 577, 581, 589, 593, 597)

Loraine Salisbury, Georgia Franklin Salisbury to Lashea Dawn Music, James Alexander Salisbury, Lorene Salisbury; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 600)

Gregory S. Ferguson, Martha J. Ferguson to Savannah J. Burleson, David J. Slone; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 604)

Bobby Page to Diana Moore; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 619)

Marsha Lynn Newsome Gutmans, Norma Newsome, Whitney Nicole Newsome to Marsha Lynn Newsome Gutmans; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 626)

Amanda R. Blackburn Cook, David M. Holbrook to Zachariah Meade; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 628)

Janice Akers to George Hale, Ruby Samons; prop-

erty location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 613)

Nora Akers, Randolph Akers to Nora Akers, Randolph Akers; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 616)

David M. Holbrook to Zachariah Meade; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 628)

Robert R. Allen, Sarah B. Allen to Kathy Allen, Robert R. Allen II; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 632)

Robert R. Allen, Sarah B. Allen to Rachel Elizabeth Allen; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 635)

Dwayne Carlos Laferty to Ralph Crisp, Rose Crisp; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 641)

Master Commissioner to US National Bank; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 646)

Bruce Salisbury, Lisa

Ann Salisbury, Lisa Ann Williams to Connie Crum, Maynard Crum; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 652)

Mary L. Lawson to Jerry Scott, Natalie T. Scott; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 658)

Alan Brian Hill, Brian Hill to Joyce Hill; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 661)

Jeremy Shepherd, Jessica Lynn Shepherd to Scott Tackett, Tami Tackett; property location unlisted (Deeds Book 635; pg. 669)



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Burchett named Fordham University Offensive Coordinator

A FLOYD CHRONICLE
AND TIMES
STAFF REPORT

BRONX, N.Y. — Prestonsburg native Michael Burchett has joined the Fordham University football program's coaching staff as offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach. He will work under new head coach Joe Conlin in his first stint as an offensive coordinator.

Joe Conlin, who served as associate head coach/offensive coordinator at Yale for the past four years, was named head football coach at Fordham University on December 22.

Tradition-rich Fordham University is the alma mater of many notable alumni, including President of the United States Donald Trump and legendary Green

Bay Packers head coach Vince Lombardi.

Burchett has made the move to Fordham University after spending the past three years at West Virginia University, the past year as the Offensive Analyst where he was responsible for advanced scouting, preliminary game planning, and offensive self-scout. He also assisted in developing weekly game plans, specifically the pass game plan, and scripted the defensive scout team based on the offensive game plan.

In his first two years in Morgantown, W.Va., Burchett, who starred as a player at Prestonsburg High School, served as an Offensive Graduate Assistant where he was responsible for coaching the quarterbacks under the supervision of head



Michael Burchett

coach Dana Holgorsen. He also conducted all position meetings and daily drills with the Mountaineer quarterbacks and assisted in developing weekly pass game plans.

Burchett's in-game duties included assisting with play calling and communicating with the head coach and quarterbacks.

Prior to his stint at West Virginia, Burchett

was an Offensive Graduate Assistant at his alma mater, the University of Kentucky in 2014 where he assisted the offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach in providing detailed breakdowns of opponent's coverage tendencies, first down tendencies and opening drive tendencies. He also compiled opponent scouting reports, composed daily quarterback cut-ups for position meetings and coached the scout team, defensive secondary and linebackers.

A 2014 graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in mathematical economics, Burchett was a preferred walk-on for the Wildcats in 2010 and 2011, being a part of the 2011 team that appeared in the BBVA Compass Bowl. He transferred to West Vir-

ginia in 2011 where he served as the backup to Geno Smith for two years as the Mountaineers won the 2011 Big East championship and the 2012 Orange Bowl.

Burchett returned to Kentucky in 2013 where he served as a student assistant while finishing his undergraduate degree. He also earned a master's degree in corporate and organizational communication from West Virginia in 2016.

Burchett's recruiting areas are Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Fordham competes in the Patriot League, which also features Lehigh, Colgate, Lafayette, Holy Cross, Bucknell and Georgetown. The Rams ended the 2017 season 5-6 overall and 2-4 in the Patriot League.

Bobcats suffer one-run loss in season opener Shelby Valley 5, Betsy Layne 4

By STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

ROBINSON CREEK — Betsy Layne flirted with victory in its season opener, but in the end couldn't upend a familiar foe from neighboring Pike County. Host Shelby Valley held on to beat the Bobcats 5-4 in the season opener on Monday.

Betsy Layne lost despite outpitching Shelby Valley. Defensive miscues plagued the Bobcats. Betsy Layne allowed three unearned runs on three throwing errors in the infield in the fifth inning.

Hunter Mullins and Grant Joyce split time on the mound for the Wildcats, working four innings and three innings, respectively.

Mullins and Joyce combined for 14 strikeouts. Joyce recorded a game-high eight strikeouts.

A pair of pitchers worked for Betsy Layne in the season opener.

Byron Tackett pitched well for the Bobcats, giving up two earned runs on three hits in four innings.

Zach Bentley came on in relief of Tackett and held Valley to two hits in two innings, turning in a solid effort.

Shelby Valley moved ahead

Bobcats owned the 2-1 advantage until the bottom half of the fifth inning when Shelby Valley erupted for four runs.

Betsy Layne answered with two runs in the top half of the sixth inning but failed to pull even.

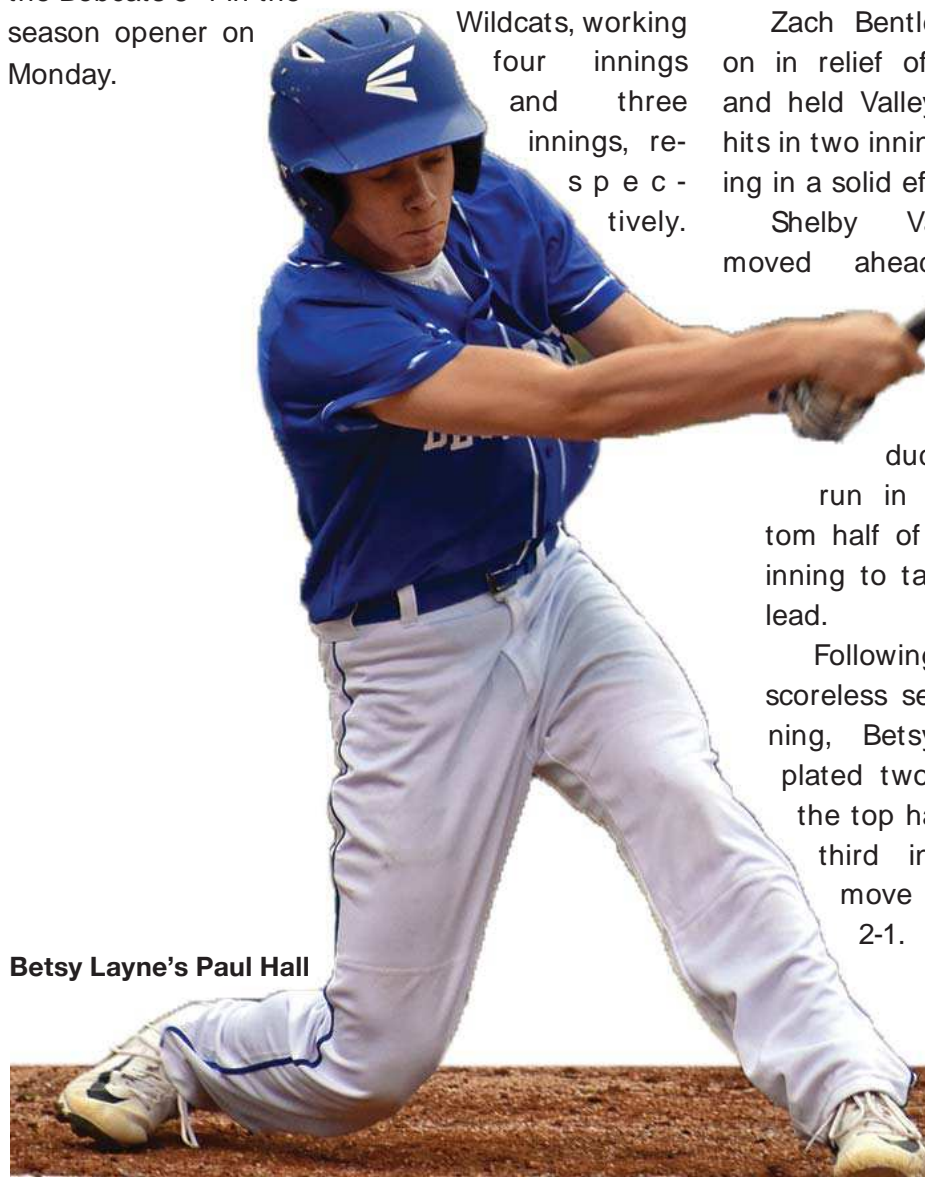
Samuel Brown delivered two hits and drove in a

pair of runs for the Wildcats in the triumph.

Offensively for Betsy Layne, Bentley, Jordan Frazier and Paul Hall provided two hits apiece.

"Overall, I was very pleased with our performance for our first game," said Betsy Layne coach Bud Newsome. "We just came up a bit short on getting the win."

Betsy Layne is slated to host Shelby Valley for another regular-season game on April 11.



Betsy Layne's Paul Hall

Baseball: Tradition-rich Lawrence County enters 58th District

By STEVE LEMASTER
SPORTS WRITER

The Lawrence County baseball program has a new home in the 58th District, joining Floyd County squads Betsy Layne, Floyd Central and Prestonsburg. Lawrence County is a newcomer from the 60th District while upstart Floyd Central is in its first season following the consolidation of Allen Central and South Floyd high schools.

More on the 58th District baseball teams follows.

Lawrence County: Annually, tradition-rich Lawrence County is among the top 15th Region baseball title contenders. The 2018 edition of the Lawrence County baseball club features a talented senior class made up of Jarrett Fairchild (P/UTIL), Kade Sword (OF/P) Brad Parks (INF/P), Peyton Cyrus (P/SS) and Dakota Shortridge (1B/DH).

Austin Roe (Jr., C), Bryce Blevins (8th, OF/P), Hunter Crum (Jr., OF/P), Tyler Maynard (So., INF/P), Jackson Feltner (So., 1B/P) and Jacob Fletcher (Fr., P/UTIL) are other key players for the Bulldogs.

Lawrence County finished 22-12 in 2017, amassing the fifth-best record among 15th Region baseball teams. The Bulldogs captured the 60th District championship and made an appearance in the 15th Region Baseball Tournament. Paintsville eliminated Lawrence County from the

See BASEBALL, Page 15A

BASEBALL

Continued From Page 14A

postseason, beating the Bulldogs 4-1 in an opening round game in the region tournament at Pike Central.

The Bulldogs are under the direction of veteran head coach Travis Feltner, one of the most successful active coaches in the 15th Region.

Floyd Central: After making a move from Prestonsburg, coach Shawn Hager is guiding the Floyd Central baseball team in its first season.

Hager thrived in a two-year stint at Prestonsburg, compiling a 47-25 overall record while winning a 15th Region All "A" Classic title and a 58th District championship.

Several former Allen Central Rebels and South Floyd Raiders can be found on the Floyd Central baseball roster. Allen Central finished 10-26 in 2017, while South Floyd compiled a 3-17 record.

Heading into the 2018 season, Floyd Central's top pitchers are Chase Conley, Caleb Hager, Dawson Stevens and Chris Brown.

Shawn Hager has confided

that a dozen players are competing for starting positions. Those players are Caleb Hager, Conley, Stevens, Brown, Brayden Hamilton, Cameron Nelson, Noah Marcum, Logan Conley, Jonah Parsons, Brady Clark, Joe Johnson and Brady Jones.

Prestonsburg: Young head coach Trey Stapleton is guiding Prestonsburg. Stapleton, a recent graduate of Morehead State University, starred for the Blackcats as a player. He replaced Hager as Prestonsburg head coach.

Prestonsburg is the reigning 58th District champion. The Blackcats shutout Allen Central 13-0 in five innings in the 2017 58th District title game.

Prestonsburg ended the 2017 season 24-10. The Blackcats were one of six 15th Region teams who posted 20-plus wins. Prestonsburg owned the third-best record among 15th Region baseball teams in 2017.

The Prestonsburg roster features seniors Ben Welch and Derrick Cotterman. Every player will have an opportunity to contribute for the Blackcats. Blake Sizemore, Cameron Blackburn, Graham

Burchett, Aaron Shepherd, Andrew Hale and Owen Greene are among the other key players for the Prestonsburg baseball team.

Betsy Layne: The Betsy Layne Bobcats will be looking to show improvement early in the 2018 high school baseball season. Coach Bud Newsome guides the Bobcats.

According to Newsome, Betsy Layne's lineup will vary from game to game. Top pitchers for Betsy Layne are Zach Bentley, Connor Newsome, Kolby McGuire, Cameron Kimbler and Byron Tackett.

Betsy Layne concluded the 2017 season 4-24. Prestonsburg eliminated Betsy Layne from the 2017 58th District Baseball Tournament, blanking the Bobcats 15-0 in five innings in an opening round matchup. Betsy Layne continued to struggle in 2017 after exiting the 2016 season with a 1-25 record. The Bobcats compiled a 6-15 record in 2015. Betsy Layne hasn't advanced to the 15th Region Baseball Tournament since 2010. The Bobcats' last trip to the 15th Region Baseball Tournament came after a 58th District runner-up finish.

Blackcats fall to visiting Shelby Valley

By **STEVE LeMASTER**
SPORTS WRITER

PRESTONSBURG — After suffering a lopsided loss on the road at Russell in its 2018 debut, Prestonsburg, under the guidance of first-year head coach Trey Stapleton, showed much improvement in a home opener. But visiting Shelby Valley still managed to upend Prestonsburg, defeating the Blackcats 7-4 at Stone-Crest Park on Tuesday.

Prestonsburg lost despite outpitching Shelby Valley 7-4.

With the loss, Prestonsburg dropped to 0-2.

Shelby Valley improved to 2-0 with the win.

The Wildcats, under the direction of head coach Jordan Compton, remained in the win column after outlasting visiting Betsy Layne 5-4 in a season opener in Robinson Creek on Monday.

Shelby Valley pitcher Lincoln Billiter pitched a complete game and earned the win. Billiter recorded eight strikeouts in the winning effort. The Shelby Valley hurler threw 18 first pitch strikes.

Three Prestonsburg pitchers split time on the

mound with freshman Owen Greene pitching a team-high three innings.

Shelby Valley scored seven runs thanks in part to 10 Prestonsburg errors. The Wildcats scored first and never trailed.

Following back-to-back scoreless innings, Shelby Valley pushed across two runs during the top half of the third inning.

Adding to its lead during the following at-bat, Shelby Valley added two more runs to move ahead 4-0.

Host Prestonsburg was able to cut Shelby Valley's lead in half during the bottom half of the sixth inning but couldn't get any closer.

Shelby Valley outscored the Blackcats 3-2 in the seventh inning to set the final score.

Four different Shelby Valley players provided one hit apiece. Adam Johnson, Jackson Wierwille, Hunter Mullins and Ryan Smith paced the Wildcats offensively.

Blake Sizemore led the Prestonsburg offensive effort with two hits.

Prestonsburg is scheduled to visit Shelby Valley for an early-season game on Thursday, March 29.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Chase Ellis, FILE

Prestonsburg celebrates after winning the 58th District Baseball title last season at Prestonsburg.

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